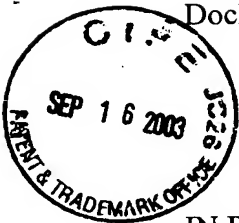


Docket No.: 239798US0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :

Yukiko ISHIKAWA, ET AL. : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 10/613,990 :

FILED: JULY 8, 2003 :

FOR: METHOD FOR PRODUCING TARGET SUBSTANCE BY FERMENTATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.